

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A communication method used in a group call communication in which communication is performed among a plurality of members belonging to a predetermined group, the method comprising the steps of:

at a transmitting end,

encoding and framing the whole of an inputted analog voice signal regardless whether the signal is in an uttered section or an unuttered section to generate frames of voice data;

sequentially inputting frames of the generated voice data, and discriminating in a unit of frame which of sonant audio or silent audio is indicated by the inputted voice data;

setting a steal flag of identifying whether or not all of a predetermined number N of continuous frames of voice data are sonant audio;

replacing the voice data which is discriminated that it indicates silent voice with data of identifying the group; and

performing wireless transmission of the replaced data of identifying the group, together with voice data indicating voice and the steal flag, at a transmitting end; and

at a receiving end,

receiving a signal which has been wirelessly transmitted;

discriminating the voice data, the data of identifying the group and a content of the steal flag;

determining how the received signal is to be reproduced, on the basis of the discriminated data of identifying the group and the discriminated content of the steal flag; and

~~when it is determined that the received signal is to be reproduced,~~ reproducing voice data for voice data sections and reproducing silence for sections of the data of identifying the group, in such a way that if it is identified by the steal flag that all the N frames of voice data are sonant audio, the N frames of voice data are sequentially outputted, and if it is identified by the steal flag that at least one of the N frames of voice data is data of identifying the group are individually decided, and each of frames of valid voice data is outputted while performing predetermined protocol processing on the basis of valid group identifying data.

12. (Previously Presented) The communication method according to claim 11, wherein the transmitting end further comprises a step of forming a transmission frame from the voice data and the replaced data of identifying the group, the step setting a steal flag which shows the presence of the voice data at the time of transmission; and

wherein the receiving end further comprises a step of discriminating the presence of the replaced data of identifying the group on the basis of the steal flag in the received signal.

13. (Currently Amended) A receiving method used in a group call communication in which communication is performed among a plurality of members belonging to a predetermined group, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving by a reception unit a wireless transmitted signal including data of identifying the group, voice data of representing voice, and a steal flag of identifying whether or not all of a predetermined number N of continuous frames of voice data are sonant audio, the data of identifying the group replacing signal voice data indicative of silence;

discriminating by a reception unit the voice data, the data of identifying the group and a content of the steal flag in the received signal;

determining by a reception unit how the received signal is to be reproduced, on the basis of the data of identifying the group and the content of the steal flag; and

~~when it is determined that the received signal is to be reproduced,~~ reproducing voice data for voice data sections and reproducing silence for sections of the data of identifying the group, by using a reproduction unit, in such a way that if it is identified by the steal flag that all the N frames of voice data are sonant audio, the N frames of voice data are sequentially outputted, and if it is identified by the steal flag that at least one of the N frames of voice data is data of identifying the group, validity of the voice data and data identifying the group are individually decided, and each of frames of valid voice data is outputted while performing predetermined protocol processing on the basis of valid group identifying data.

14. (Currently Amended) A receiving apparatus used in a group call communication system in which communication is performed among a plurality of members belonging to a predetermined group, the apparatus comprising:

reception means for receiving a received signal including data of identifying the group, voice data representing voice, and a steal flag of identifying whether or not all of a predetermined number N of continuous frames of voice data are sonant audio, the data of identifying the group replacing original voice data indicative of silence;

detection means for discriminating the voice data, the data of identifying the group and a content of the steal flag in the received signal;

control means for determining how the received signal is to be reproduced, on the basis of the data of identifying the group and the content of the steal flag; and

reproduction means ~~used when it is determined that the received signal is to be reproduced,~~ for reproducing voice data for voice data sections and for reproducing silence for sections of the data of identifying the group, in such a way that if it is

identified by the steal flag that all the N frames of voice data are sonant audio, the N frames of voice data are sequentially outputted, and if it is identified by the steal flag that at least one of the N frames of voice data is data of identifying the group, validity of the voice data and data of identifying the group are individually decided, and each of frames of valid voice data is outputted while performing predetermined protocol processing on the basis of valid group identifying data.

15. (Previously Presented) The receiving apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the reception means operates so as to receive a frame signal;

wherein the detection means operates so as to detect predetermined data in a voice signal included in the frame signal;

wherein the reproduction means operates so as to reproduce the voice signal in the frame signal which is received by the reception means, and further to reproduce the predetermined voice when data of identifying the group data is detected by the detection means; and

wherein the control means operates to execute processing based on the data of identifying the group detected by the detection means.

16. (Previously Presented) The receiving apparatus according to claim 15, wherein a predetermined control flag which shows the presence of the data of identifying the group is set in the frame signal; and

wherein the detection means operates so as to detect the data of identifying the group on the basis of the predetermined control flag.